

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 NEAE-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 OMB-01

TRSE-00 FDRE-00 MED-02 HEW-04 AID-05 IGA-02 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 SS-15 PM-04 SP-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /073 W
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O P 061513Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9409

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 3009

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, LE

SUBJ: ICRC ACTIVITIES

1. SUMMARY: SAW ICRC REP. HE HAD THREE PLEAS: CASH, THAT I SHOULD TALK TO LEBANESE ABOUT ICRC PROBLEMS, AND RADIOS. IN SHORT, ICRC HAVING GRAVE PROBLEMS HERE CARRYING OUT ITS TRADITIONAL TASKS. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH PASS SOME OF INFO HEREIN CONTAINED TO DE HAHN FOR KENNEDY. END SUMMARY.

2. HOEFLIGER REPORTS ICRC SHORT OF CASH. IT HAS ABSTRACTED ALMOST NOTHING FROM ARABS. HOPES USG CAN HELP PUSH.

3. SAYS BEIRUT SITUATION IS MOST DIFFICULT HE HAS EXPERIENCED. RED CROSS FLAG DOES NOT PREVENT FIRE BUT RATHER ATTRACTS IT. FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO GET TO ASHRAFIYA CHRISTIAN SECTION BECAUSE OF HEAVY FIRE FIGHT. NOW HAS A DELEGATE THERE WHO GOT IN FROM JOUNIEH. DELEGATE REPORTS MANY SHORTAGES AND HIGH PRICES, BUT A SURVIVABLE CONDITION FOR TIME BEING. HARDEST HIT ARE REFUGEES FROM OTHER AREAS. ASHRAFIYEH, LIKE
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OTHER CHRISTIAN AREAS INCLUDING JOUNIEH, WAS WELL-STOCKED

THREE MONTHS AGO YET ALL NOW WELL DRAWN DOWN.

4. ICRC STILL MAINTAINING BASIC PHILOSOPHY OF RECEIVING AND DISTRIBUTING GOODS TO LEBANESE ORGANIZATIONS AND THEN ENDEAVORING TO RUN END USE CHECKS. COORDINATING COMMITTEE UNDER SUPERVISION OF HEALTH MINISTRY HAS CEASED FUNCTIONING. ICRRRC TRYING TO GET IT GOING AGAIN. BASIC DEMAND OF VARIOUS LEBANESE COMMUNITIES AND GROUPS IS THAT ICRC DO JOB DIRECTLY, BUT ICRC RELUCTANT, KNOWING THAT IT WILL ONLY GET RECRIMINATIONS THAT IT FAVORING ONE GROUP OVER ANOTHER.

5. SITUATION IN COUNTRYSIDE IS BETTER. ICRC HAS TWO TEAMS IN BEKAA AND AKAR. RED CROSS FLAG RESPECTED AND TEAMS ARE GETTING THROUGH TO ISOLATED VILLAGES, LARGELY TO PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND ALSO, OF COURSE, TO ANALYZE NEEDS.

6. ICRC HAS DELIVERED TEN TONS PLUS OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO JOUNIEH FROM CYPRUS. IMMEDIATE NEEDS SATISFIED WERE BANDAGES, SURGICAL IMPLEMENTS, ETC. NEW NEEDS, NOW SENT TO GENEVA, ARE DRUGS AND OTHER MEDICAL SUPPLIES.

7. HOEFLIGER THINKS HE NEEDS HELP IN GETTING HIS GROUPS RESPECTED. ASKED IF I WOULD TELL VARIOUS LEADERS I SEE -- ESPECIALLY JUMBLATT -- THAT ICRC IS RESPECTABLE, NON-POLITICAL OUTFIT AND THAT IT IS ENGAGED IN PURELY HUMANITARIAN EFFORT. I'LL TRY TO DO THIS.

8. HE ASKED IF I'D LIKE TO VISIT ICRC FIELD HOSPITAL WHICH IS IN SHIA TERRITORY. UNLESS I'M TOLD NO, I'LL DO SO.

9. HE NEEDS RADIOS, AS NO DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN HIM, OFFICE AND HOSPITAL. WE CAN'T DO IT NOW AS ALL OUR RADIOS ON SAME FREQUENCY AND IN LOW SUPPLY. WE'VE GOT SOME SETS COMING IN. I WILL TELL HIM THAT I'LL TRY TO MEET HIS NEEDS WHEN NEW ORDER WE'VE MADE IS RECEIVED. I'LL ALSO SUGGEST HE ORDER HIMSELF.

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10. ACTION REQUESTED: WHERE DO WE STAND WITH ICRC? I KNOW THERE IS PAST TRAFFIC ON THIS BUT WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING FOR MY INFO SOMETHING ON WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE ARE GOING.
BROWN

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